

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A base station supporting multicast communication, the base station comprising:

a control signal relay configured to transmit a common control signal to mobile stations in a multicast group; and

a response signal relay configured to

receive ~~a predetermined number of~~ plural response signals to the common control signal from ~~one or more~~ plural of the mobile stations in the multicast group, the ~~predetermined~~ number of the plural response signals corresponding to a total number of response signals received from the plural mobile stations and including a maximum of one response signal from each of the ~~one or more~~ plural mobile stations,

receive a subsequent response signal to the common control signal from a second mobile station in the multicast group, the second mobile station not included in the one or more mobile stations, and the subsequent response signal received after the ~~predetermined number of~~ plural response signals,

transfer only the ~~predetermined number of~~ plural response signals received from the ~~one or more~~ plural mobile stations to a controller without waiting to receive the subsequent response signal, and

retain the subsequent response signal to the common control signal.

Claim 2 and 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A radio network controller supporting multicast communication, wherein the radio network controller is configured to:

receive a ~~predetermined number of~~ plural response signals to a common control signal from ~~one or more~~ plural mobile stations in a multicast group, the ~~predetermined~~ number of the plural response signals corresponding to a total number of response signals received from the plural mobile stations and including a maximum of one response signal from each of the ~~one or plural~~ mobile stations;

receive a subsequent response signal to the common control signal from a second mobile station in the multicast group, the second mobile station not included in the ~~one or more~~ plural mobile stations, and the subsequent response signal received after the ~~predetermined number of~~ plural response signals; and

perform a predetermined processing on only the ~~predetermined number of~~ plural response signals without performing a ~~the~~ predetermined processing on the subsequent response signal.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A base station supporting multicast communication, the base station comprising:

a control signal relay configured to transmit a common control signal to a ~~plurality of~~ mobile stations in a multicast group; and

a response signal relay configured to

receive a ~~predetermined number of~~ plural response signals to the common control signal from ~~one or more~~ plural of the mobile stations in the multicast group, the ~~predetermined~~ number of the plural response signals corresponding to a total number of response signals received from the plural mobile stations and including a maximum of one response signal from each of the ~~one or more~~ plural mobile stations,

receive a subsequent response signal to the common control signal from a second mobile station in the multicast group, the second mobile station not included in the ~~one or more~~ plural mobile stations, and the subsequent response signal received after the ~~predetermined number of~~ plural response signals,

process only the ~~predetermined number of~~ plural response signals received from the ~~one or more~~ plural mobile stations to a controller without waiting to receive the subsequent response signal, and

unprocess the subsequent response signal to the common control signal.